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MINUTES

OF THE

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF

The North River Baptist

ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE FAYETTEVILLE CHURCH,

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

On the 21st, 22d and 23rd days of September, 1861.

Democrat Print, Fayette C. H., Ala.

ASS

MINUTES.

1st. Sept., 21st A. D. 1861.—The Ministers, Messengers, and Delegates, met with the congregation at the New and splendid Baptist meeting house, in Fayetteville, Fayette county, Ala. The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder L. B. Harbin, from John 14th Chapter and 19th verse: "As I live, ye shall live also."

2d. After a short interval, the delegates assembled in the meeting house, and the Association was called to order by singing and prayer, by the former Moderator, Eld. L. B. Harbin.

3rd. Then received and read letters from the following, churches and enrolled the names of the delegates:

Churches.	*Counties.*	*Delegates.*
Fayetteville,	Fayette,	Jas. Middleton, M. Van Diver. A. F. Bell.
New Bethel,	"	Eld. G. W. Eaton, J. D. Harton, G. T. Harton.*
Shady Grove	Marion,	Elder A. L. Dugan, E. G. Terrel,* R. D. Cantrel,*
Pilgrim's Rest,	Fayette,	H. Yerby, N. Weaver, G. B. Collins, E. D. Rushing.
Shepherd,	"	Elder J. C. Jones, Elder T. A. Brent, J. J. Reynolds.
Bethlehem,	Tuscal'a	E. B. Aplin,* Lewis Lee, J. F. McDuff.
Hepsebeth,	Fayette,	Elder L. B. Harbin, S. Baker,* E. Autry, W. G. Vanzant.
Mt. Pleasant,	"	Elder J. H. Sullivan, Elder W. L. Jones, Elder M. C. Owen, N. K. Whitesides, J. K. Wiley, D. G. Kirkland.
Clear Spring,	"	Elder W. R. Goss, T. L. Willingham, S. G. Mathews, A. Brasher.*
Union,	"	John H. Wade,* T. J. Ray.
Macadonia,	"	J. M. Wilson,* Silas Nall.* P. C. Lee,
Hopewell,	Marion,	Not represented.
Good Spring,	"	D. W. Chambliss, Wm. Vessels, W. W. McBride, Elder M. Keenum.
Pleasant Grove,	Walker,	W. Sides, sen, M. R. Miller, G. Wolf,* G. F. Sides,* W. F. Sides,* Elder S. A. Smith* Elder D. Manasco, Elder A. A. Smith.
Jasper,		R. Files,* H. C. Lawley,* Henry Broach,* Elder J. A. Hill.
Liberty Grove,	"	Elder J. J. Watts, A. A. Sides, E. Sumner, A. Smith.
Lebanon,	"	Geo. Davis,* J. Wilcut,* John Handley.

New Prospect,	"	Elder W. Mills. Martin Orear, J. P. Mooney, J. B. Hulsey.*
Hermon,	"	L. Fowler,* W. Watt,* J. Orear,* S. Ray.
Union,	Winston	Not represented.
Mt. Joy,	Fayette,	Not represented.
Providence,	Walker,	W. Randolph,* W. Cobb, W. Swindle,* S. H. Karr,* W. Phifer,* Elder B. B. Smith.
Sardis,	Winston	T. M. Martin,* A. Ward,* J. Stone,* W. Barton.

(Absentees marked thus *)

4th. Then proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of L. B. Harbin Moderator, J. J. Watts Clerk, and A. F. Bell, Correcponding Secretary.

5th. Then opened the door of the Association for newly constituted or dismissed churches.

6th. Then invited visiting Ministers present, to take seats with us, and P. M. Musgrove and Joel Rushing, took seats with us.

7th. Then appointed the following committees, to wit:

1st—On arrangement—A. L. Dugan, A. F. Bell, James Middleton, with the Moderator and Clerk. 2d, On documents—B. B. Smith, D. Manasco, G. W. Eaton, W. L. Jones, and W. R. Goss. 3rd, On Finance—S. G. Mathews, J. J. Reynolds, and J. C. Jones. 4th. On Preaching—The Deacons of Fayetteville Church, and Hogan Yerby, E. Sumner, Lewis Lee, and Wm. Sides. 5th. On the decease of Ministers—T. A. Brent, N. K. Whitesides, and W. Mills.

8th. Called for Correspondence, and the following were received:—From Tuscaloosa Association. a letter by her messengers, Elder J. R. Arnold, Elijah Howel, and Montgomery Bell. From Yellow Creek Association, a petitionary letter and Minutes, by her messenger A. Bobo; and on motion, opened correspondence with that Association. The right hand was then given to all the messengers, and they took seats with us.

Then on motion, adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by L. B. Harbin.

SABBATH, Sept. 22d 1861.

Sabbath morning, according to appointment, brother B. B. Smith, conducted the prayer meeting, at 11 o'clock J. J. Watts delivered the missiontry sermon, in the Baptist meeting house; at the close of which $16 70 was taken up as collection for missionary purposes. At 1 o'clock brother P. M. Musgrove preached; and in the Methodist meeting house brother J. C. Jones preached at 11 o'clock, and brother J. R. Arnold at 1 o'clock: and at night brother B. B. Smith, preached in the Baptist meeting house, followed by brother J. H. Spann. Large and well or-

dered congregations were in attendance every hour, and we trust much good was done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Monday Morning, 23rd, 9 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Elder W. R. Goss.

9th. The committee on Arrangments reported. The report was adopted and the committee discharged.

10th. Read the Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum, of the Association.

11th. Returned correspondence as follows: To Tuscaloosa Association, brothers G. W. Eaton, L. B. Harbin, W. L. Jones, M. C. Owen, T. A. Brent, and W. R. Goss, to attend. To Canaan Association, brethren J. A. Hill, A. A. Smith, L. B. Harbin, to attend. To Holly Spring Association, brethren M. Keenum, D. W. Chambliss, to attend. To Yellow Creek Association, brethren E. D. Rushing, G. W. Eaton, M. C. Owen, W. R. Goss, L. B. Harbin, Jas. C. Jones, to attend. To East Alabama Baptist Convention, L. B. Harbin, B. B. Smith, W. R. Goss, and G. W. Eaton, to attend.

The Corresponding Secretary, read the letters to corresponding bodies, which were adopted.

12th. The committee on Documents reported. The report was received and the committee discharged. Adopted as follows: Granted Macadonia Church, a letter of dismission. Appointed, the next Association to be held with Providence Church, Walker county, Ala., 10 miles S. W. of Jasper, to commence on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September A. D. 1862.

13th. The committee on the decease of Ministers reported. Adopted the report as follows: The committee on the decease of Ministers are happy to report, that during the last Associational year, no minister of this body has died; this preserving mercy of God should be recognized with a due sense of gratification. Your committee recommends a short season be spent in thanks giving and prayer to our Heavenly Father.

T. A. BRENT, Chairman.

Suspended business for prayer and thanks giving, by J. J. WATTS.

14th. Called for and adopted the report of the committee on Finance, and discharged the committee: "We the committee on Finance, beg leave to submit the following report: Received for mimutes and associational purposes $40 40, all of which we submit to your body.

S. G. MATHEWS, Chaiman.

15th. Called for and adopted the report of District meetings. 1st District to be held with Shepherd Church, commencing on Friday before the 2d Sabbath in August 1862—W. R. Goss to preach the introductory sermon, J. C. Jones alternate, W. R. Goss to preach on missions, on Sunday at 11 o'lock, L. B. Harbin alternate.

2d District to be held with Hermon Church, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August 1862—David Manasco to preach the introductory sermon, J. J. Watts to preach on Sabbath, at 11 o'clock on missions.

16th. On motion, appointed A. F. Bell, J. Middleton, L. Lee, E. Sumner and Hogan Yerby, a committee to nominate Ministers to preach on different subjects next Association. Adopted as follows: J. J. Watts to preach the introductory sermon next year, A. L. Dugan, alternate; W. R. Goss to preach on Sabbath at 11 o'clock, in defence of of Missions, J. C. Jones alternate.

17th. Called for and adopted the Treasurer's report, as follows:

Received over my wages last year,	$12.50	Amount brought over	$56,20
Of L. B. Harbin,	10,00	Of J. H. Broach,	10,00
Of K. H. Edwards,	20	For Indian mission,	12,90
Collection on Sunday last year at Liberty Grove,	29,00	1861,	79,10
Of Rev. McDonald,	50	Collection at Fayetteville,	16,70
Of G. Wolf,	4,00		95,80
	56,20	Paid to J. A. Hill,	50,00
		On hand,	45,80

Rec'd for Minutes, $66,50 of former Tres'r by Gwin, $20, total, 86,50

Disbursed:

To Correspondents L. B. Harbin,	$24.00
A. Markham,	6,00
D. S. Harris,	6,00
For printing Minutes,	24,00
Clerk's fee,	15,00

$85.50 is the whole amount received.

$75,00 is the whole amount paid out.

$11,50 yet on hand of minute fund.

18th. Appointed J. J. Watts, Treasurer.

19th. Called for and adopted the executive Board's report, as follows:

We have employed brother J. A. Hill, as missionary 4½ months of the present associational year, at $40 per month, which contract however, was only a ratificatin of the act of, or suggestion of the Association. Brother Hill, was prevented from serving longer, partly owing to our distracted political condition; and here we would beg leave to make a suggestion in reference the propriety of the Associaton appointing a board for the next year. On account of the war, many are and will be left more destitute; but our brethren are pressed and are likely to be

short of means to keep up the mission, unless some means can be brought to our aid, or some new plan be devised. We would regret to see the cause fail. We submit it for your consideration. A. F. BELL, Ch'm.

Appended is our missionary's report, as follows: Labored 4¾ months, preached 132 sermons, lectured on Sabbath schools, the importance of the circulation of Baptist literature &c., at all the Churches, collected while laboring $76,75, from brother Watts $50,00. A. F. Bell's subscription $5.00, collected at District meeting at Jasper $16,00, total $147,75. Due brother Hill for 4¾ months, at $40 per month $190,00

Paid 147,00

Ballance due $42,25

20th. Called for and adopted the Book agent's report as follows:

We have not taken any active steps to purchase books, oweing in some degree to the increaseing hardness of the times; and the uncertainty of getting them directly transported; and the consequent increase of outlay in expenses, thus curtailing the prfit thereon; or sinking the book fund. The condition of the fund is as follows, namely:

Cash fund $48,80, books in hands of R. Adkins $14,80, D. G. Kirkland $2,00, from Tuscaloosa Association as per bill of books $30,00, profit on books 22 cents, total cash and books $96,82.

21st. Appointed A. F. Bell, J. Middleton, and Levi Lindsey, Book agents.

22d. On motion adjourned one hour for dinner. Prayer by L. B. Harbin.

MONDAY EVENING, 1 o'clock.

Met persuant to adjournment. Prayer by M. C. Owen.

23rd. On motion, appointed A. F. Bell, M. Van Diver, J. Middleton, L. Lindsey, and D. G. Kirkland, Executive Board, with the power to employ all the Ministers of our Association, to labor this year as much as they can, to the destitute: which they propose gratituously to do, oweing to the emergecy of the times.

24th. On motion, called the names of delegates, and marked absentees.

25th. *Resolved*, That so much of the 25th Article of the minutes, of last Association, as relates to the making Ministers, standing delegates, to the Association is hereby recinded.

26th. On motion, ordered the Treasurer, to forward our Indian Mission funds, to the Board of the Alabama Baptist Convention, to be divided between the Cherokee and Creek nations' Missionaries.

27th. *Resolved*, That the Clerk have 1000 copies of these minutes printed, and distribute as usual; and that the Clerk have ten dollars for his services. Also, that the Constitution and Rules of Decorum, be printed with these minutes.

28th. Appointed A. F. Bell, for 1st district, and J. J. Watts for 2d district distributing agents.

29th. On motion, agreed to pay our Correspondents $1 per day.

30th. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body, be tendered to the citizens of Fayetteville and vicinity, for their hospitality and kindness shown us during our session; and also, that the thanks of this body, be tendered the Methodist Church, for the use of their Church house, during this meeting.

31st. Then read and corrected the minutes of this session.

32d. Then on motion, adjourned to meet at the time and place appointed. Prayer by brother W. K. Goss.

Benediction by brother G. W. Eaton.

J. J. WATTS, Clerk. L. B. HARBIN, Moderator.

CONSTITUTION OF NORTH-RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

We, the Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ are desirous of a reciprocal Union, we therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of the Association, according to the follwing plan:

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other, and that the congregational form of church government should be inviolably preserved, yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious councils on the principles of reciprocal advantage and christian love, we hold it to be the duty of the Churches to pay respect on these principles to the advice of the Association.

1st. The association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to seats, the letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively, viz: The number in fellowship, the number received by Baptism, by restoration, dismissed, excommunicated and dead since the last association, which letters shall be read and the delegates names enrolled.

2d. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of the North River Baptist Association.

3rd. We declare ourselves a Missionary Body on the following plan: The association may appoint an Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to employ a Missionary or Missionaries to travel and preach the Gospel to the destitute in her bounds, and to enlarge their field of labor if necessary, and furthermore, it shall be the duty of said committee to appoint a Treasurer to take charge of all the money paid over by the several churches for the support of the Mission; also said Treasurer shall make a correct report at each and every annual Session of this Body, of all money received, expenditures, and the surplus on

hand it any, which report shall be affixed to the minutes of the association.

4th. The association thus formed, shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

5th. This body shall have no coersive power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights of the churches in our union, but shall only be considered an advisory council in all matters respecting their internal concerns.

6th. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union should be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty, but if the breach cannot be repaired to withdraw from any church or churches which they may look upon to be unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same be reclaimed.

7th. To take up no case of any church in the union, without the consent of a majority of the church.

8th. Newly constituted or dismissed churches may be received into our union by their representatives as before stated, and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving the right hand of fellowship.

9th. The association when convened shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

10th. Every church numbering fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every twenty-five members over fifty, one delegate.

11th. To have the minutes of the association read and altered if necessary, and signed by the Monerator and Clerk before the association rises and have them printed if she thinks proper.

12th. The association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members.

13th. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

14th. To amend the plan or form of government at any time when a majority of the union shall deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The assocsation shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2d. But one person shall speak at a time and shall arise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3rd. No member shall be interupted while speaking unless he depart from the question, or uses words of personal reflection

4th. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5th. Every case taken up by the association shall be decided or withdrawn before another is offered.

6th. When any question is taken up by the association after allowing time for debate. The Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays or otherwise; the decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

7th. No person shall depart from the service of the association without leave of the Moderator.

8th. No person shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave obtained.

9th. The appellation of brother shall be used in our address one to another.

10th. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege as any other member provided he appoints some other member to fill his seat while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the association be equally divided.

11th. Any member violating the above rules may be reproved as the association may think proper, only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

MINISTERS.

NAMES,	POST OFFICE,	COUNTY,	STATE.
W. R. Goss,	Sheffield,	Fayette,	Alabama.
G. W. Eaton,	Beverdale,	"	"
M. C. Owen,	Fayette C. H.	"	"
J. C. Jones,	Newtonville,	"	"
W. L. Jones,	Davis Creek,	"	"
J. H. Sullivan,	" "	"	"
L. B. Harbin,	Sheffield,	"	"
T. A. Brent,	Newtonville,	"	"
A. L. Dugan,	Pikeville,	Marion,	"
Milton Keenum,	Palo,	"	"
J. J. Watts,	Jasper,	Walker,	"
David Manasco,	Holly Grove,	"	"
B. B. Smith,	York,	"	"
W. M. Mills,	Brackwater,	"	"
J. A. Hill,	Jasper,	"	"
S. A. Smith,	Holly Grove,	"	"
A. A. Smith,	Jasper,	"	"
Samuel Tyler,	Kansas.	"	"
Isham Guttry, L.	Holly Grove,	"	"

Licensed Ministers marked thus [L]